

Phone: 515-281-7462 www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/Default.aspx Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans



lowans may be exposed to environmental conditions that cause disease at home, outdoors, and in the workplace. Environmental Epidemiology helps protect the health of all lowans by watching for and investigating diseases and illnesses caused by environmental conditions such as food borne illnesses, arsenic in private water wells, carbon monoxide poisonings, lead poisoning, and concerns about diseases during floods or other natural disasters. Environmental Epidemiology also seeks to prevent illnesses that are caused by environmental conditions through activities such as using data about environmental exposures more effectively to prevent disease and illness, assuring children are tested for lead poisoning, reducing exposure for lead-poisoned children, and providing information about ways to prevent harmful exposures at home, work, and play.

By working to understand and prevent harmful environmental exposures, Environmental Epidemiology helps keep lowans safe.

Did you know?

2.7% of Iowa children will be lead-poisoned by their 6th birthday. This means about 1,100 Iowa children born each year will become lead poisoned by their 6th birthday.

In 2012, there were 84 traumatic work-related deaths reported in lowa. Iowa has a higher percentage of older worker deaths (55 years of age or older) than the US with a 2010-2012 3-year average of 44% compared to a US average of 32%. (Source: IA FACE & CFOI data).

Why is Environmental Epidemiology important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Everyone is at risk for developing an environmental or occupational disease.
- Nearly 40% of lowa houses were built before 1950, and most of these homes contain lead-based paint. Young children who live in pre-1950 houses are lead-poisoned when they put paint chips or exterior soil in their mouths or when they get house dust and soil on their hands and put them in their mouths.
- In 2012, Iowa had 818 adults (27% of those tested) with an elevated blood lead test of 10 micrograms per deciliter or higher, with 94% occurring from workplace exposure. The Iowa rate is approximately double the most recent US rate estimates for adult lead exposure.
- In 2011, there was one reported death from carbon monoxide poisoning in Iowa.
- IDPH averages over 3,800 pesticide reports annually.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Protect against environmental hazards

Prepare for, respond to, & recover from public health emergencies

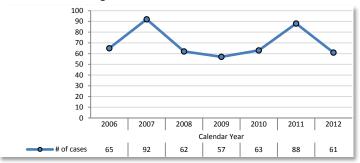
Prevent epidemics & the spread of disease

Prevent injuries

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do we do?

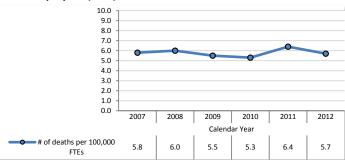
- The Lead Poisoning Prevention program works to prevent childhood lead poisoning by assuring children are tested for lead poisoning, reducing exposure for lead-poisoned children, and educating lowans about prevention. In 72 counties, local boards of health provide childhood lead poisoning prevention services; IDPH provides funding and technical assistance. IDPH provides direct services in the remaining 27 counties.
- Provide guidance and assistance to local public health officials and other state agencies on environmental exposures when needed.
- Work with other state and local agencies to investigate illnesses caused by food and water.
- The Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance program tracks, analyzes, and reports work-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths, and cases of adult lead and pesticide poisoning. It also provides information to workers, employers, and other public health programs.
- The Environmental Public Health Tracking program involves the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data on environmental hazards, exposures to those hazards, and health effects that may be related to the exposures.



Data Source: NIOSH and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Data are available annually. 2010 and 2011 data are not yet available.

How are we doing? Numbers of pesticide cases and the corresponding rates per employed persons continue to vary from year to year, somewhat due to reporting patterns or exposures due to crop duster over-spraying.

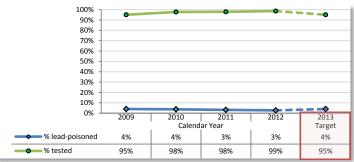
Rate of fatal work-related injuries occurring in Iowa per 100,000 full time employees (FTEs).



Data Source: IDPH Occupational Surveillance Program and U.S. Department of Labor. Preliminary data are available annually, with a 2-year delay for final data. 2012 data is provisional.

How are we doing? The 2012 preliminary rate is the same as the average for 2007-2011. Roadway transportation incidents accounted for 59% of the work-related deaths in 2011.

- Percent of Iowa children who get a blood lead test by age six.
- Percent of Iowa children getting a blood lead test who are identified as lead-poisoned.



Data Source: IDPH Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance Database. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? Virtually all Iowa children are now tested for lead poisoning. The percentage of children tested for lead who are leadpoisoned is steadily decreasing. However, there is still a need to teach providers and parents about the need for testing.

What can Iowans do to help?

- 1. If you have been diagnosed with an environmental-related disease, make sure your physician reports it to IDPH. For a list of reportable environmental diseases, go to
 - www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/reportable_diseases.asp.
- 2. All lowans should be aware of the dangers of pesticides. Report all human pesticide exposures by calling the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center at 1-800-972-2026. To learn more, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/Pesticide.aspx.
- Local public health should consult the Environmental Epidemiology program for help and guidance on possible environmental exposures and health concerns.
- 4. Iowa parents should be aware of possible exposure to lead hazards and have their children tested for lead poisoning. All lowans should be aware of lead poisoning risks. To learn more, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/Default.aspx. Adults who work with lead should be aware that they can become lead-poisoned, their children can be poisoned by lead brought home on their clothes, and their unborn children can be exposed to lead if they are pregnant. www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/ABLES.aspx
- 5. Follow laws requiring training and certification of those who identify or abate lead-based paint, and those who perform renovation, remodeling, and repainting in pre-1978 housing or child-occupied facilities. www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/Default.aspx
- Iowa workplaces should adopt safety practices to prevent fatal injuries. www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/OHSSP.aspx

Expenditures

Funding Sources: General fund, federal funds, & retained fees*. K13-1351; 0153-0402/0984/1362/1708/1912/1954

	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2014 Estimate
State funds	\$503,585	\$537,750	\$537,750
Federal funds	\$1,338,023	\$1,408,505	\$1,185,468
Other funds*	\$304,237	\$532,341	\$920,396
Total funds	\$2,145,845	\$2,478,596	\$2,643,614
FTEs	10.67	10.86	11.25

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health Ovision of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response and Environmental Health Environmental Epidemiology Phone: 515-281-7462 Fax: 515-281-4529 www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/env_epi.asp www.idph.state.ia.us/LPP/Default.aspx 5th Floor, Lucas Building ♦ 321 E. 12th Street ♦ Des Moines, IA 50319-0075